

STELLARIA PARVA PEDERSEN NEW TO NORTH AMERICA

by

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Stellaria parva Pedersen has recently been identified as occurring in Louisiana. Although misidentified herbarium (LAF) specimens date back to 1966, recent field collections and studies of fresh material led to the identification of this plant. Specimens were collected in Acadia and Jeff Davis Parishes from wet ditches in golf courses (Landry & Reese 8166, 11 April 1988, Landry & Reese 8176, 29 April 1988) and near drainage pipes in lawns (Landry & Reese 8171, 8172, 29 April 1988). Associated species include S. media, Alternanthera philoxeroides, Hydrochloa carolinensis, Ludwigia palustris and various species of sedges.

Stellaria parva, originally described in 1961 (Pedersen 1961), is presumably native to Argentina, Paraguay and southern Brazil. It is frequently misidentified as S. media, but can easily be distinguished by its solitary, axillary flowers and small, sessile leaves.

A more complete account of the occurrence of this species in Louisiana is forthcoming.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

Pedersen, T. M., 1961. New Species of Hydrocleis, Scirpus and Stellaria. Botanisk Tidsskrift 57: 38-48.